

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ERDA-05 DPW-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 AID-05

DHA-02 ORM-02 SCA-01 OIC-02 /095 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2196

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 0903

FOR L - ALDRICH FROM MATESON

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ICRC PARM

SUBJ: LUGANO CONFERENCE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

1. FOLLOWING IS MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION THAT YOU MAY FIND OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST, WHICH WE PICKED UP IN COURSE OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS DURING FINAL DAYS OF CONFERENCE, CONCERNING FUTURE WORK ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.

2. APPARENTLY ALL GROUPS AT CONFERENCE WERE OF OPINION THAT WORK OF AD HOC COMMITTEE AT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED INTO 3-4 WEEKS, STARTING FIRST- OR SECOND WEEK OF MAY. THIS WAS CONSENSUS OF WESTERN GROUP, AND WE UNDERSTAND OF SWEDES AND NON-ALIGNED AS WELL, AND SOVIET EXPERT ADVOCATED IT IN HIS CLOSING STATEMENT.

3. ALL PRESENT SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO REACH OVERALL AGREEMENT ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS ISSUES AT COMING SESSION OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH SOME, PARTICULARLY MEXICANS, APPARENTLY INTEND TO TRY TO APPLY CONSIDERABLY MORE POLITICAL PRESSURE ON US THAN AT PREVIOUS SESSION.

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ONE POSSIBLE SCENARIO COMMONLY DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE,

PARTICULARLY BY SWEDES AND YUGOSLAVS, WOULD ENVISION ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON WEAPONS AT 4TH SESSION OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE IN 1977 (POSSIBLY PRECEDED BY SOME FORM OF INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP), AND THEN INVOCATION OF SEPARATE CONFERENCE TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENTS ON WEAPONS. THIS, SO THE SWEDES AND YUGOSLAVS HOPE, MIGHT MEET PROBLEMS OF SOVIETS, FRENCH, GERMANS AND POSSIBLY EVEN CHINESE CONCERNING PROPER FORUM FOR WEAPONS WORK. NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE AT LUGANO TO REACH INFORMAL CONSENSUS ON ANY OF THIS, BUT IT WILL PRESUMABLY BE BROUGHT UP IN GENEVA.

4. DURING FINAL MEETING OF WESTERN GROUP, FRG EXPERT INDICATED THAT HIS GOVT WOULD BE MAKING FORMAL REQUEST IN NATO FOR ANOTHER MILITARY COMMITTEE STUDY OF WEAPONS QUESTIONS. HE DESCRIBED FRG REQUEST IN GENERAL TERMS, AND APPARENTLY HAS IN MIND STUDY OF ALL PROPOSALS INTRODUCED AT LUGANO, BUT WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS AT LEAST ON NETHERLANDS PROPOSALS ON INCENDIARIES. HE SEEMED TO REALIZE THAT STUDY COULD NOT BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR COMING SESSION OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, BUT WANTED IMMEDIATE NATO REQUEST FOR STUDY. THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF HIS ANNOUNCEMENT. IN PRIVATE, SEVERAL WESTERN EXPERTS WERE DUBIOUS ABOUT VALUE OF ANOTHER NATO STUDY, BUT WERE NOT SURE WHETHER IT COULD BE REFUSED IF IT WERE PROPERLY FRAMED.

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